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TS No. 186351

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
22 August 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Expected Fall of the Norwegian Government

1. The expected defeat today of Prime Minister Gerhardsen's Labor government on a no-confidence motion introduced by the opposition parties paves the way for the formation of Norway's first non-Socialist government in 28 years. The successor government is almost certain to be a four-party coalition of the non-Socialist parties headed by John Lyng, a prominent Conservative Party leader.

2. Like Labor, the four parties are strong supporters of Norway's membership in the Western alliance and there are no serious differences among the democratic parties on basic foreign policy and defense questions. Hence, Norway's membership in NATO or its commitments to the alliance will not be affected. Indeed establishment of a non-Socialist government might be slightly beneficial to US interests in Norway, if for no other reason than that the mild pacifist influences within the Labor Party would no longer be felt in the formation of foreign and defense policies. However, such a new government might not prove politically durable.

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